

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1947

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 8147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: ROC REACTION TO THE DESIGNATION OF CYRUS VANCE AS
NEXT SECRETARY OF STATE

REF:TAIPEI 8131

1. LOCAL MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S
DESIGNATION OF CYRUS VANCE AS NEXT SECRETARY OF STATE HAS
BEEN VERY FAVORABLE, STRESSING VANCE'S "MORALITY" AND
EXPERTISE IN FOREIGN POLICY. NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON VANCE'S
VIEWS ON US CHINA POLICY HAS ALSO BEEN WIDELY PLAYED AND
HAS BEEN INTERPRETED IN THE PRESS AS AN INDICATION THAT
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL MOVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY
ON THE QUESTION OF NORMALIZATION AND WILL PLACE GREATER
EMPHASIS ON THE CONTINUED SECURITY OF TAIWAN (SEE REFTEL)
FOR MORE DETAILS).

2. GROC OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH
VANCE'S DESIGNATION, CHARACTERIZING HIM AS A WISE AND
HONEST MAN. SO FAR MOST HAVE AVOIDED SPECULATION ON
WHAT IMPACT HIS APPOINTMENT MAY HAVE ON US CHINA POLICY.
MANY, HOWEVER, HAVE NOTED THAT VANCE HAS VISITED TAIWAN
AND IS ACQUAINTED WITH GROC OFFICIALS. SOME HAVE ALSO
NOTED THAT VANCE MET WITH ROC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
YANG HSI-KUN IN AUGUST, A MEETING WHICH YANG HIMSELF
HAS CHARACTERIZED TO EMBOFF AS "HELPFUL". IMPLICIT IN THESE
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COMMENTS APPEARS TO BE THE HOPE THAT VANCE WILL BE MORE

ACCESSIBLE TO GROC OFFICIALS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER
AND THAT HE WILL BE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE TAIWAN ASPECT
OF US CHINA POLICY THAN THEY PERCEIVE THE PRESENT
ADMINISTRATION TO BE.

3. THOSE OUT OF GOVERNMENT HAVE TENDED TO BE LESS
RETICENT THAN GROC OFFICIALS, EXPRESSING GREAT INTEREST
IN VANCE'S DESIGNATION. MANY HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE
THAT VANCE WILL DEVELOP A CHINA POLICY MORE FAVORABLE
TO THE ROC, POINTING TO THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE TO SUPPORT
THEIR VIEW. ONE NOTED COMMENTATOR ON US CHINA POLICY
TOLD USIS BPAO TAICHUNG THAT THROUGH THE NEWSWEEK
ARTICLE VANCE HAS ALREADY STAKED OUT HIS NEGOTIATING
POSITION WITH PEKING IN ADVANCE BY SAYING THERE IS
NO NEED TO RUSH TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PEKING.
THIS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTATOR, IMPLIES THAT THE
NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL FEEL NO NEED TO MAKE CON-
CESSIONS TO PEKING BUT IS OPEN TO ANY CONCESSIONS
PEKING MAY WISH TO MAKE.
UNGER

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